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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 001968

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/RPM (E.SHINAGEL), USNATO (H.BAEZ)

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SUBJECT: ISRAEL: RESPONSE ON NATO MED-D SOFA DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 92323

Classified By: Political Counselor Marc Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (C) Polmiloff raised reftel points with MFA Acting Director for Multilateral European Institutions Boaz Rodkin on August 28. Rodkin appreciated the points in advance of the NATO Legal Advisors' meeting in Brussels on September 2, and said he would circulate them with the MFA Legal Advisor's office and the office of MOD Political-Military Director Amos Gilad prior to the meeting.

¶2. (C) Rodkin was not surprised by the points; he noted that they "tracked closely" with reports they had received from their embassy in Washington following meetings at the Department. He suggested that the exchange of letters (EoL) compromise proposed by the U.S. had the possibility of becoming "tedious and overly bureaucratic," as it would necessitate "constant submissions" for every NATO exercise in which Israel wished to participate. Polmiloff reiterated U.S. redlines, arguing that the EoL model offered a suitable compromise for Israeli needs. Rodkin was not convinced, but appreciated the explanation in advance of the Legal Advisors' meeting next week.

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